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FOR UNDER SEC ROBINSON

FOLLOWING REPEAT OECD PARIS 26132 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: HEADS OF DELEGATION DISCUSSION OF OECD ROLE
IN DIALOGUE

1. SUMMARY: DURING OCTOBER 9 HEADS OF DEL MEETING
CALLED TO DISCUSS OECD ROLE IN DIALOGUE, SEC GEN VAN
LENNEP CONTINUED TO EXHIBIT FLEXIBLE AND PRACTICAL
APPROACH TO ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES WHICH HE HAS EXPRESSED
TO US IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. HE EMPHASIZED XCSS ROLE
AS HIGH-LEVEL FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND FOR
ENSURING THAT APPROPRIATE OECD BODIES ARE PREPARED TO
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BACKSTOP WORK OF THE FOUR COMMISSIONS, BUT SAID HE

SAW NO NEED AT THIS TIME TO DEAL WITH COORDINATION OF OVERALL STRATEGY FOR DIALOGUE TO BE LAUNCHED BY PREPCON HE FELT, HOWEVER, THAT XCSS MEETING OCT. 21-22 SHOULD UNDERTAKE FIRST DISCUSSION OF COHERENT DC APPROACH TO OVERALL PROCESS OF NORTH/SOUTH DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE IN VARIOUS FORUMS WHICH HAS EMERGED FROM SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION AND OTHER RECENT MEETINGS, INCLUDING ROLE OF COMMISSIONS IN THIS GLOBAL PROCESS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT UPCOMING XCSS SHOULD FOCUS ON SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF BASIC ISSUES RATHER THAN ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS AND MADE STRONG PITCH FOR STRONGEST POSSIBLE REPRESENTATION BY ALL GOVERNMENTS. ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR XCSS, ISSUES ON SAME DAY, IS TRANSMITTED BY SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. VAN LENNEP BEGAN BY DRAWING DISTINCTION BETWEEN OVERALL PROCESS OF NORTH/SOUTH NEGOTIATIONS TAKING PLACE IN MANY FORUMS WHICH HAS EMERGED FROM 7TH SPECIAL SESSION AND OTHER RECENT MEETINGS AND MORE SPECIFIC DIALOGUE WHICH WILL BE LAUNCHED BY PREPCON. HE THOUGHT XCSS, IN OCT. 21-22 MEETING AND THEREAFTER, SHOULD HAVE MAJOR ROLE IN BOTH OF THESE AREAS. WITH REGARD TO FORMER, XCSS SHOULD IDENTIFY THOSE ISSUES WHICH MIGHT APPROPRIATELY BE DEALT WITH IN OECD AND KEEP UNDER REVIEW GENERAL PROGRESS AND INTERRELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE VARIOUS SUBJECTS BEING DISCUSSED. XCSS SHOULD INSURE THAT HLGS ON COMMODITIES AND RELATIONS WITH LDCS ARE PREPARED TO PLAY THEIR ROLE IN BROADER NORTH/SOUTH DISCUSSIONS. HE NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT SECRETARIAT WOULD SHORTLY ISSUE FOR XCSS CONSIDERATION CATALOGUE OF DISCUSSIONS OF NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES CURRENTLY UNDER WAY IN ALL INTERNATIONAL FORUMS.

3. VAN LENNEP WENT ON TO STATE THAT SECOND MAJOR ROLE OF XCSS SHOULD BE TO DETERMINE PLACE OF DIALOGUE LAUNCHED BY PREPCON IN OVERALL STRUCTURE OF NORTH/SOUTH DISCUSSIONS. UNLIKE DIALOGUE ON ENERGY, DISCUSSIONS OF DEVELOPMENT, COMMODITIES AND FINANCIAL MATTERS WILL TAKE PLACE NOT ONLY IN COMMISSIONS BUT ALSO IN A RANGE OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. UPCOMING XCSS SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE A FIRST DISCUSSION OF FUNCTION OF COMMISSIONS IN THESE OTHER AREAS. CITING "EXTREME" ALTERNATIVES, VAN LENNEP THOUGHT OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOULD DECIDE SUCH BASIC QUESTIONS AS WHETHER COMMISSIONS SHOULD MERELY MONITOR DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE IN OTHER FORUMS OR WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE ACTIVE, LEAD BODIES IN WHICH REAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PRODUCE CONCRETE RESULTS, DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR WHICH MIGHT BE WORKED OUT IN OTHER

FORUMS.

4. FINALLY, IN VIEW OF RESTRICTED PARTICIPATION IN DIALOGUE, VAN LENNEP THOUGHT THAT XCSS SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO INSURE THAT ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ARE FULLY INFORMED AND INVOLVED TO GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE IN DIALOGUE.

5. VAN LENNEP STATED THAT ROLE OF HEADS OF DEL SHOULD BE TO SUPPLEMENT POLICY DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE IN OTHER BODIES BY SERVING AS CHANNEL FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON PROGRESS OF DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSING OECD PROCEDURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS BETWEEN XCSS MEETINGS. NOTING THAT QUESTION OF DC PARTICIPATION IS BEING DISCUSSED THROUGH "DIPLOMATIC" CHANNELS, VAN LENNEP THOUGHT THAT HEADS OF DEL MEETING MIGHT AT SOME STAGE WISH TO "CONCLUDE THAT ISSUE HAS BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED."

6. VAN LENNEP EMPHASIZED THAT XCSS AND OTHER OECD BODIES SHOULD AVOID DISCUSSION OF SUCH QUESTIONS AS RESPECTIVE ROLES OF IEA AND XCSS ON QUESTIONS OF LINKAGE AND OVERALL STRATEGY WHICH MAY ARISE IN FUTURE AND FOCUS ON REAL AND RELATIVELY URGENT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. HE MADE STRONG PITCH FOR ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO SEND HIGHEST AND MOST BROADLY COMPETENT POSSIBLE REPRESENTATION TO UPCOMING XCSS MEETING SO THAT IT CAN FOCUS ON FUNDAMENTAL, SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RELATED TO BOTH BROADER NORTH/SOUTH DISCUSSIONS AND TO DIALOGUE RATHER THAN ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO OVERALL COORDINATION WHICH ARE AT THIS STAGE LARGELY HYPOTHETICAL. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT WITH XCSS, HLGS ON COMMODITIES AND RELATIONS WITH LDCS, AND TEM-

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PORARY WORKING PARTY OF EPC (TWP), OECD IS FULLY PREPARED TO PLAY ITS APPROPRIATE ROLE IN THE DIALOGUE.

7. ALL DELEGATIONS WHO SPOKE DURING ENSURING DISCUSSION AGREED WITH VAN LENNEP'S GENERAL APPROACH. SWEDISH DELEGATE DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH COORDINATED OECD VIEWS ON ALL ISSUES TO ARISE IN COMMISSIONS, BUT THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE FOR OECD COUNTRIES TO SEEK HARMONIZED APPROACH TO BASIC OBJECTIVES OF DIALOGUE, E.G., ALL SHOULD BE ABLE TO AGREE ON GOALS OF MAINTAINING NON-CONFRONTATIONAL ATMOSPHERE WHICH PREVAILED AT 7TH SPECIAL SESSION AND OF SEEKING TO MAKE CONCRETE PROGRESS ON ISSUES WHICH EMERGED THERE. UK PERMREP FELT COORDINATION OF OECD COUNTRIES' POSITIONS WAS DESIRABLE-- AND APPROPRIATE MACHINERY WAS ALREADY

ESTABLISHED -- FOR WORK OF INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONS BUT CAUTIONED AGAINST SEEKING AT THIS STAGE O SET UP MACHINERY FOR OVERALL COORDINATION OF DIALOGUE. HE SUGGESTED A FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO OVERALL COORDINATION IN WHICH DECISIONS IN THIS AREA WOULD BE TAKEN ONLY WHEN NEEDED FOLLOWING LAUNCHING OF DIALOGUE. VAN LENNEP FULLY ENDORSED UK VIEW, NOTING THAT HE HAD CAREFULLY AVOIDED USE OF WORK "COORDINATION." HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT XCSS SHOULD DISCUSS NEED FOR BASIC UNDERSTANDING AND COHERENT APPROACH TO OVERALL PROCESS OF NORTH/SOUTH DISCUSSIONS.

8. WHILE NOTING THAT OECD-WIDE CONSULTATION ON ENERGY WAS PROBLEM THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH IN SOME MANNER, FRENCH DEL AGREED WITH VAN LENNEP THAT APPROPRIATE MACHINERY IS IN PLACE IN OECD FOR DEALING WITH ALL ASPECTS OF DIALOGUE. HE AGREED THAT QUESTION OF OVERALL COORDINATION NEED NOT BE DEALT WITH AT THIS STAGE, BUT ASSERTED THAT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY DESIRE TO HARMONIZE OVERALL STRATEGY AT SOME POINT.

9. GERMAN DEL ASKED WHY VAN LENNEP HAD NOT PROJECTED ANY ROLE FOR COUNCIL IN BACKSTOPPING DIALOGUE AND THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE FOR COUNCIL TO MEET AT MINISTERIAL -- OR AT LEAST DEPUTY MINISTERIAL -- LEVEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS NEED FOR POLITICAL DECISIONS ARISES DURING COURSE OF DIALOGUE.

10. AMBASSADOR TURNER AGREED WITH VAN LENNEP'S ASSESSMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS AND STATED THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED ON A PRAGMATIC BASIS, NOT SEEKING TO ESTABLISH SPECIFIC MECHANISMS FOR OVERALL COORDINATION UNTIL NEEDS ARE CLEARLY DEFINED. HE ACCEPTED HEADS OF DEL ROLE IN INFORMATIONAL EXCHANGE. HE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF UPCOMING XCSS AND, REFERRING TO GERMAN STATEMENT, SAID OUR VIEW WHILE NOT FORECLOSING POSSIBLE MINISTERIAL MEETING IF NEED ARISES WAS THAT XCSS SHOULD PLAY ROLE GERMAN DEL APPARENTLY ENVISAGED FOR COUNCIL AT DEPUTY MINISTERIAL LEVEL. FOR XCSS TO PLAY THIS ROLE, HOWEVER, IT WOULD REQUIRE HIGHEST POSSIBLE REPRESENTATION FROM ALL COUNTRIES AND CAREFUL PREPARATION. HE POINTED TO HIGH LEVEL OF US REPRESENTATION AT XCSS. FRENCH DEL ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF XCSS IN THIS REGARD, NOTING THAT FRANCE IS TRADITIONALLY REPRESENTED AT DEPUTY MINISTERIAL LEVEL AT XCSS. WHILE NOT EXPLICITLY RULING OUT COUNCIL ROLE IN DIALOGUE, IF NEED FOR FORMAL OECD DECISIONS (AS OPPOSED TO DISCUSSIONS AMONG

OECD MEMBERS) SHOULD ARISE, VAN LENNEP STRONGLY ENDORSED
VIEW THAT SCSS IS APPROPRIATE BODY FOR HIGH-LEVEL
DISCUSSIONS OF DIALOGUE.

11. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIN FROM SWEDISH DEL, VAN
LENNEP SAID HE THOUGHT TEMPORARY WORKING PARTY OF EPC
SHOULD CONTINUE IN EXISTENCE AND SERVE AS BACKSTOPPING
BODY FOR FINANCIAL MATTERS. FOLLOWING REFERENCE TO
COMMISSION SITE BY FRENCH DEL, VAN LENNEP EXPRESSED
STRONG HOPE THAT COMMISSIONS WOULD MEET IN PARIS, SINCE
THIS WOULD FACILITATE POSSIBLE OECD SECRETARIAT ROLE
AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION AMONG OECD
MEMBERS.
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